

FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATIVE
SNOW SURVEY AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

FOR

MONTANA and NORTHERN WYOMING

Upper Missouri and Upper Columbia River
Basins

MAY 15, 1950

Division of Irrigation
Soil Conservation Service

and

Montana Agricultural Experimental Station
Bozeman, Montana

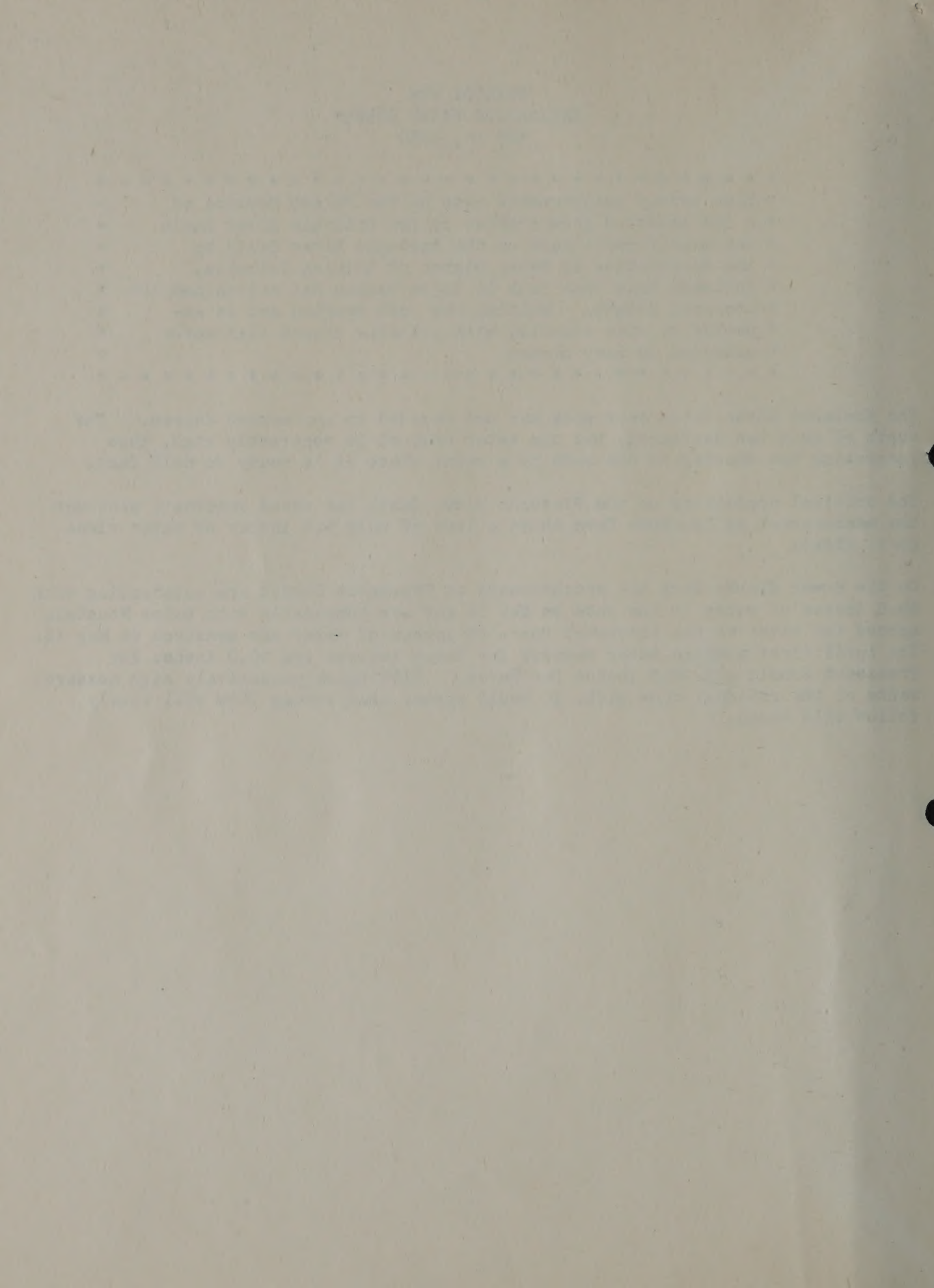
OUTLOOK FOR
IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY
MAY 15, 1950

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* Snow survey measurements made by the Forest Service on *
* a few selected snow courses in the Columbia River Basin *
* and measurements made on the Kootenai River Basin by *
* the Comptroller of Water Rights of British Columbia, *
* indicate that snow pack in these basins has maintained its *
* abnormal height. Melting has just started and is ex- *
* pected to rise steadily with probable record high marks *
* exceeded in many places. *
* * * * *

The Kootenai River Basin snow pack has not receded to any marked degree. The depth of snow has decreased, but the water content is remarkably high, thus increasing the density of the snow to a point where it is ready to melt fast.

The critical conditions on the Flathead River Basin has eased somewhat, although the measurement at Limestone Pass shows a loss of only 4.3 inches of water since April first.

On the Lower Clarks Fork the measurements at Freezeout Summit are outstanding with 55.8 inches of water in the snow on May 15 and are comparable with Baree Mountain across the river to the northwest where 66 inches of water was measured on May 15. The April first average water content for these courses are 30.0 inches for Freezeout Summit and 38.8 inches for Baree. With these excessively high measurements of the residual snow pack, it would appear that stream flow will likely follow this trend.



MONTANA SNOW SURVEYS MAY 15, 1950

MISSOURI BASIN

DRAINAGE BASIN

AND
SNOW COURSE **

MISSOURI BASIN								Water Content (Inches)				Years of Record	
DRAINAGE BASIN AND SNOW COURSE **		No.	Elev.	Date of Survey 1950	Snow Depth (In.) 1950	Water Content May 15 1950	Per Cent Density	Change Since May 1 1950	May 15, 1949		May 15, 1950		
									Water Content	PerCent Density	Water Content		PerCent Density
<u>ROOTENAI</u>												2	
Baree Mountain	15B1	6000	5/15	132.2	66.1	50%	3.2	40.8	54%	63.9	46%		
Blue Bird Basin	14A1	6800	5/15	109.4	49.1	45%	- 4.6	24.3	46%	53.7	41%		
Brush Creek	14A4	5000	5/15							17.1	36%		
Red Mountain	15A1	6000	5/15	56.8	26.7	47%	- 4.4	----	----	31.1	43%		
Gray Creek	Canada	5100	5/14	54.8	20.4	37%	- 4.1	14.4	44%	24.5	35%		
Gerrard	Canada	6000	5/15	38.9	10.5	27%	- 5.7*	4.2	41%	----	----		
Marble Canyon	Canada	5000	5/15	34.8	13.8	40%	- 2.8	1.1	42%	16.6	32%		
Sullivan Mine	Canada	5100											
<u>FLATHEAD RIVER</u>													
Brush Creek	14A4	6800								17.1	36%		
Desert Mountain	13A2	5600						Bare		21.7	42%		
Limestone Pass	13B8	7600	5/15	132.9	50.5	38%	- 4.3	----	----	54.7*	39%*		
Logan Creek	14A5	4300						----		7.1	34%		
Spotted Bear Mt.	13B2	7000						----		18.1	41%		
Strawberry Lake	13B10	6500						----		58.8	45%		
Trinkus Lake	13B1	6500						----		53.1	46%		
Trout Lake	13B11	3600						----		20.2	43%		
<u>UPPER CLARKS FORK</u>													
49 Meadows	15B10	5000	5/16	83.0	39.4	48%	-18.0	21.4	52%	47.5	45%		
Lookout	15B2	5250	5/15	79.9	38.0	48%	- 7.1	15.6	56%	45.1	44%		
Benton Springs		4900	5/8	61.0	27.7	48%	1.6	Bare	0	26.1	44%		
Freezeout Summit	15C3	7000	5/15	114.3	55.8	49%	19.2*	24.2	54%	36.6*	28%*		
Mosquito Ridge	16A4	5110	5/15	85.0	43.3	51%	- 3.7	----	----	47.0	46%		
<u>BITTERROOT</u>													
East Fork R.S.	13D1	5400		NO SNOW		----	----	----	----	----	----		
Gibbons Pass	13D2	7100	5/15	63.5	29.1	46%	0.9	----	----	28.3	38%		
Skalkaho Summit	13C3	7258						14.4	61%	33.5	26%		
Packers Meadow	14C2	5700	5/15	37.4	21.1	56%	- 3.2	2.0	62%	24.3	41%		
Mud Creek Pasture	14C1	4500	5/15	NO SNOW		----	----	----	----	----	----		

* April 1 Data - Comparison

